



# Roadmap to Reduce U.S. Food Waste

**Chris Cochran**  
Executive Director, ReFED

# What is ReFED?

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ReFED is a nonprofit collaboration formed in 2015 of over 40 business, nonprofit, foundation, and government leaders committed to reducing food waste in the U.S.

In 2017 and beyond, ReFED is developing stakeholder-specific guides, facilitating cross-sector partnerships, and unlocking foundation, private, and government capital to support innovation.



# ReFED Advisory Council



# **ReFED's** ***Roadmap***

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## **Assessing U.S. Food Waste and Identifying Solutions**

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**[refed.com/roadmap](https://refed.com/roadmap)**

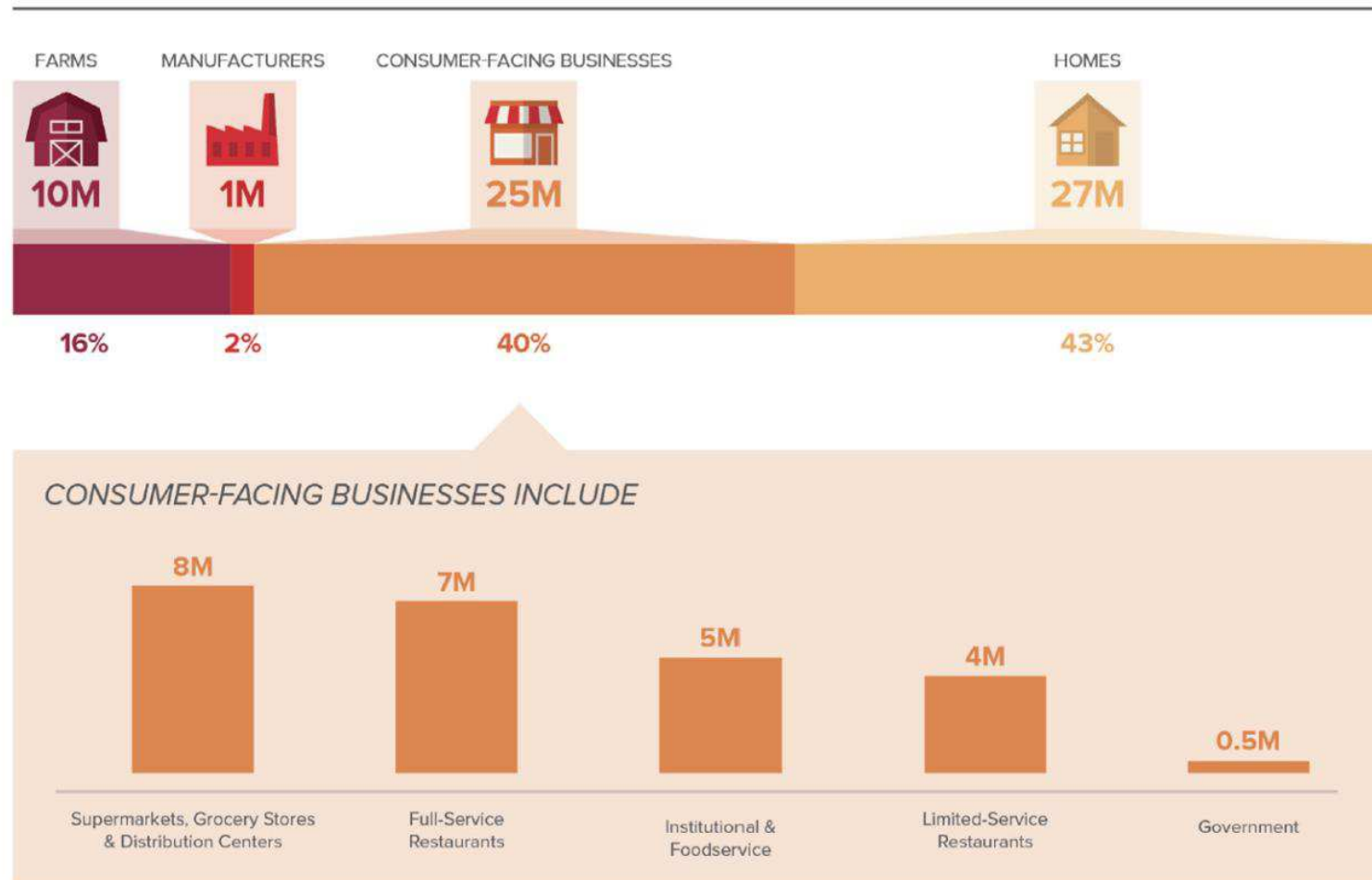
A collage of various fruits and vegetables including carrots, apples, onions, and bell peppers. The items are arranged in a dense, overlapping pattern across the entire image. The colors are vibrant, with oranges, reds, greens, and yellows being prominent.

**Every year, American consumers, businesses and farms spend \$218 billion (roughly 1.3% of GDP) on food that is never eaten.**

**This waste represents 18% of Cropland, 19% of Fertilizer, 21% of Freshwater, and 5% of GHG emissions.**

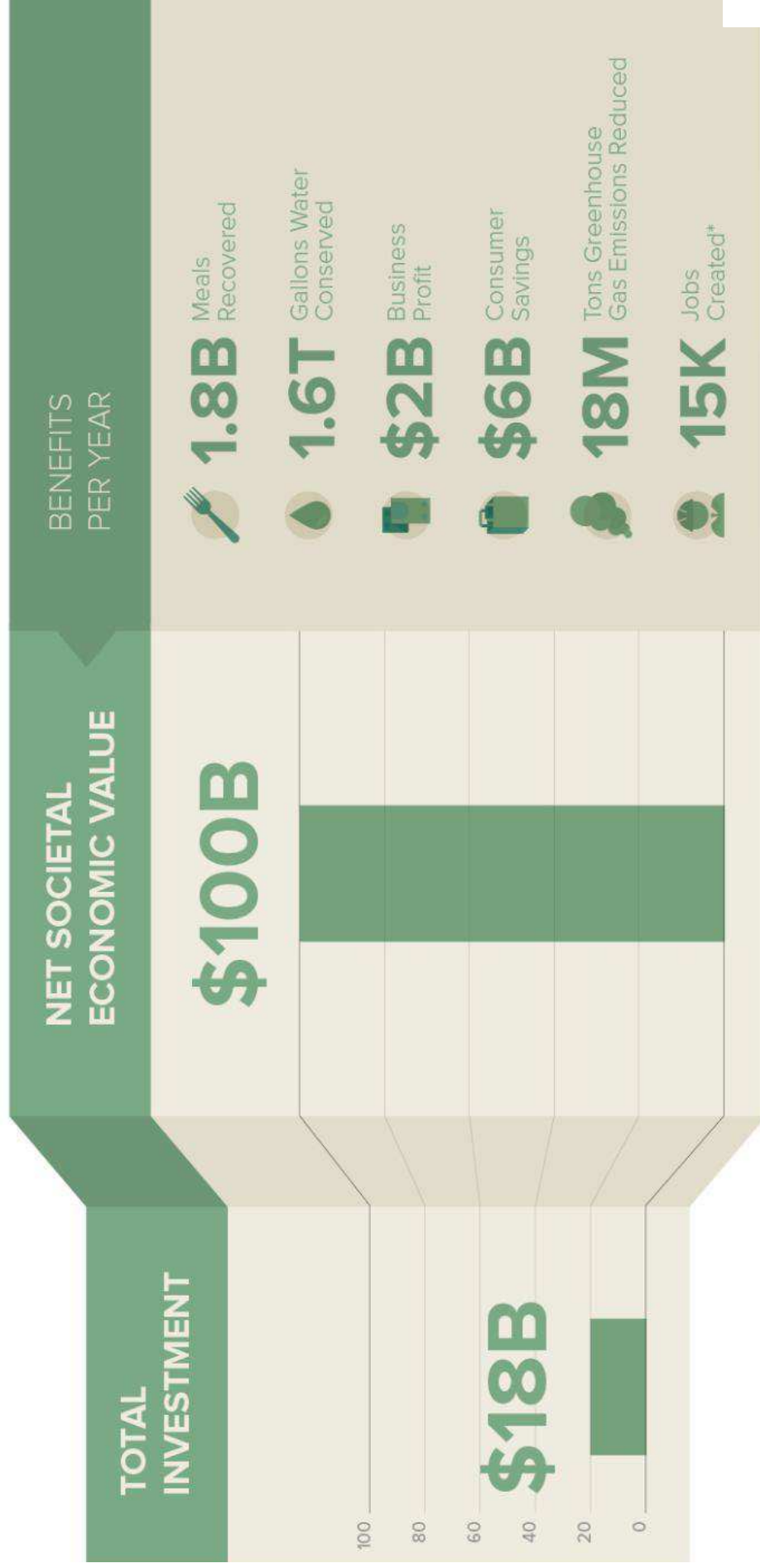
# Nearly 85% of all food waste happens in homes or consumer-facing businesses (restaurants, retail grocers, institutional cafeterias)

FOOD WASTED BY WEIGHT — 63 MILLION TONS



# **THE SOLUTIONS AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS**

# AN \$18 BILLION INVESTMENT IN 27 SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE U.S. FOOD WASTE BY 20% WILL YIELD \$100 BILLION IN SOCIETAL ECONOMIC VALUE OVER A DECADE



# 27 Solutions Evaluated

Prevention Solutions	
Packaging, Product & Portions	Standardized Date Labeling
	Packaging Adjustments
	Spoilage Prevention Packaging
	<b>Produce Specifications (Imperfect Produce)</b>
	Smaller Plates
	Trayless Dining
Operational & Supply Chain Efficiency	Waste Tracking & Analytics
	Cold Chain Management
	Improved Inventory Management
	Secondary Resellers
	Manufacturing Line Optimization
Consumer Education	Consumer Education Campaigns

Recovery Solutions	
<b>Donation Infrastructure</b>	Donation Matching Software
	Donation Storage & Handling
	Donation Transportation
	Value-Added Processing
<b>Donation Policy</b>	Donation Liability Education
	Standardized Donation Regulation
	Donation Tax Incentives

Recycling Solutions	
Energy & Digestate	Centralized Anaerobic Digestion (AD)
	Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) with AD
On-Site Business Processing Solutions	In-Vessel Composting
	Commercial Greywater
Agricultural Products	Community Composting
	Centralized Composting
	Animal Feed
	Home Composting

## Criteria for Selection

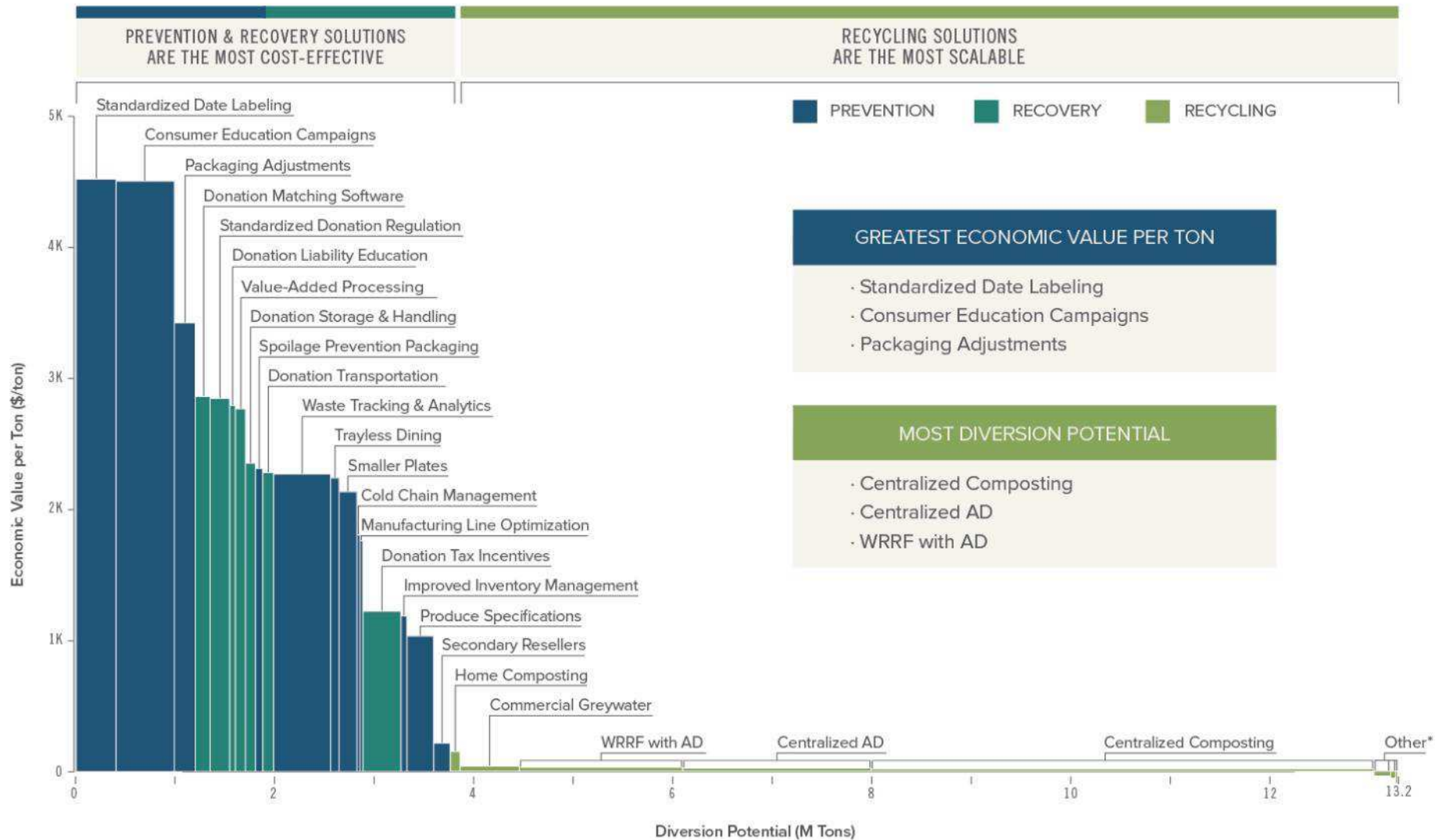
*Available Data*

*Cost effective*

*Feasible*

*Scalable*

## MARGINAL FOOD WASTE ABATEMENT COST CURVE



# Levers to Drive Action Across all Stakeholders

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Four crosscutting actions needed to quickly cut 20% of waste and put the U.S. on track to achieve a broader 50% food waste reduction goal by 2030.



## POLICY

Commonsense tweaks leading to standardized national policy



## FINANCING

New catalytic capital and quantified non-financial impacts



## INNOVATION

5 focus areas and innovation incubator networks




## EDUCATION

National Consumer and Employee campaigns

# ReFED Innovator Database

[refed.com/innovators](https://refed.com/innovators)



THE FOOD WASTE INNOVATOR DATABASE  
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ANALYSIS

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FILTER BY DETAILS


STATUS


CATEGORY


FOOD RECOVERY HIERARCHY

ORGANIZATION REACH:

 NATIONAL ORGANIZATION  
ORGANIZATION HEADQUARTERS

 LOCAL ORGANIZATION



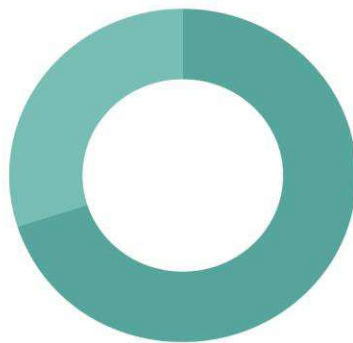


# FOOD WASTE INNOVATORS BY THE NUMBERS

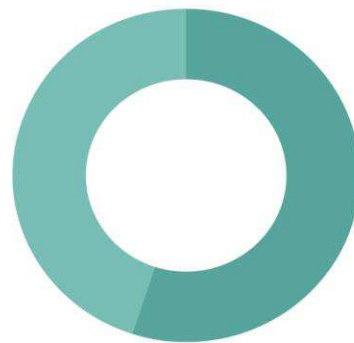
The Innovator Database categorizes hundreds of innovators by location, business structure, and solution focus area.



**34** states  
**24** countries



**70%** For-profit  
**30%** Nonprofit



**55%** National focus  
**45%** Local focus



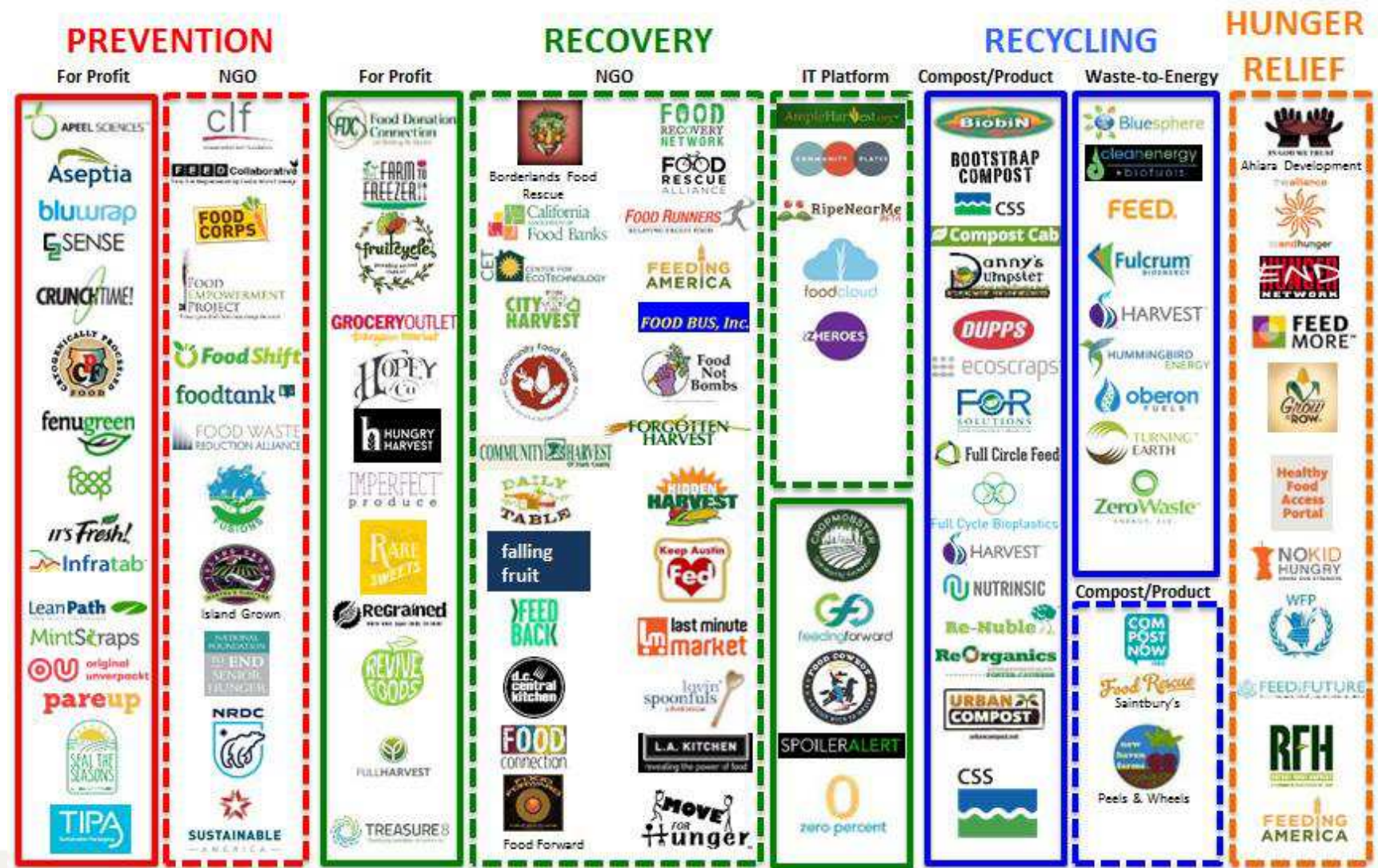
**46%** Prevention  
**26%** Recovery  
**27%** Recycling

See all the ReFED Food Waste Innovators at  
**REFED.COM/INNOVATORS**



**ReFED**

# Innovation



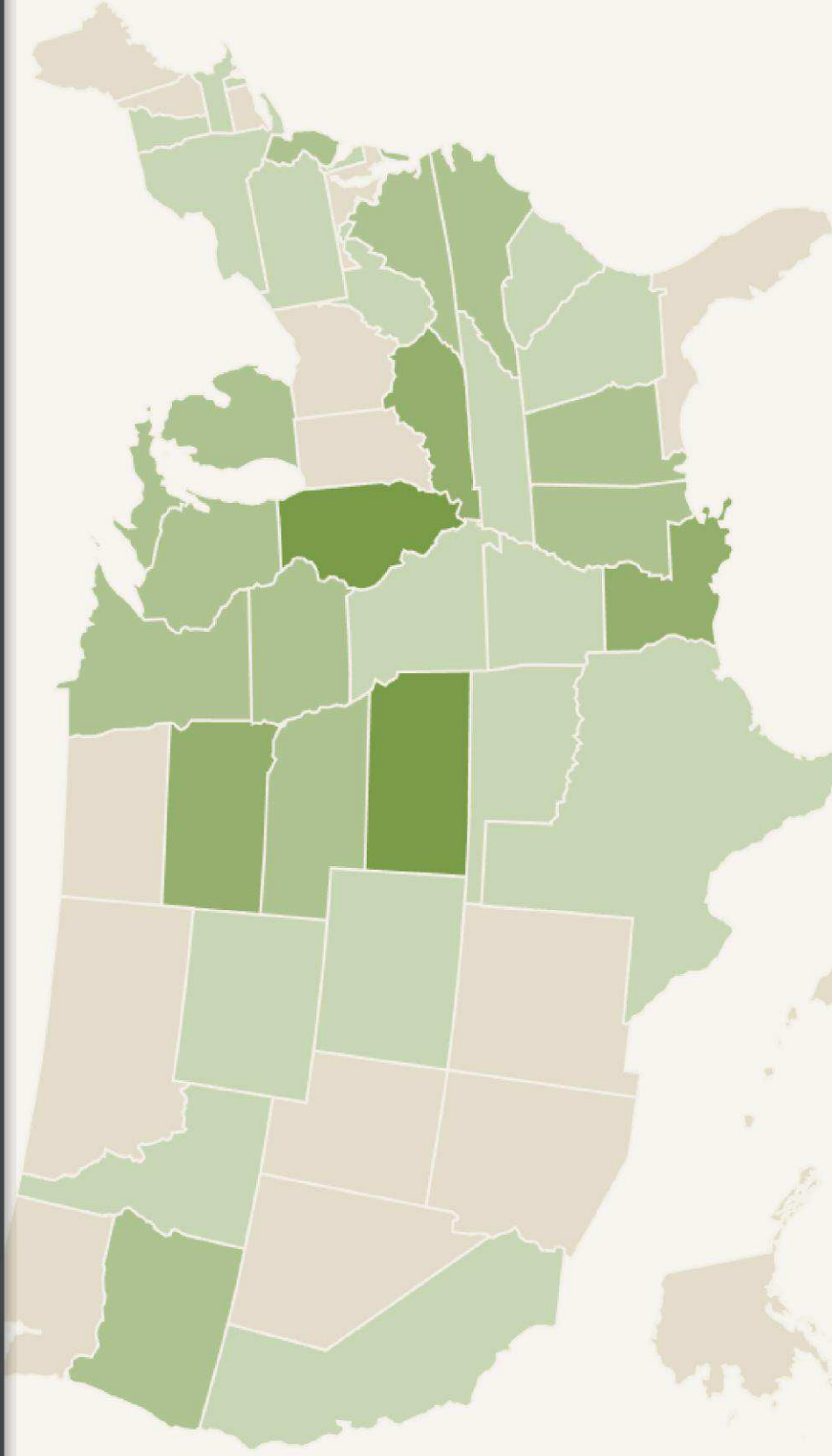


**ReFED**

*Introducing the ReFED*

# U.S. FOOD WASTE POLICY FINDER

DISCOVER THE POLICIES THAT ACCELERATE THE MOVEMENT TO REDUCE FOOD WASTE



# State Policy Landscape

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- 7 states impose no date labeling requirements
- 24 states have donation liability protections beyond the federal baseline
- 9 states provide state-level tax incentives for food donations
- 16 states do not impose restrictions on the feeding of food scraps to animals
- 5 states and 6 municipalities have organics waste bans or waste recycling laws

***12 states have introduced legislation targeting food waste reduction this year***



# Connect with ReFED

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